

# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OFFICIAL RESULTS

## FY2016

### Town of Rowe

#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town Clerk: Jennifer A. Morse  
Moderator: Robert J. Clancy  
Constable: Robert Dykeman  
Town Counsel: Donna MacNicol  
Tellers: Christopher Hyytinen, Marjorie Morse, Rebecca Richardson, Ellynn Packard

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday May 11, 2015 at the Rowe Elementary School. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Moderator Robert J. Clancy. There was Eighty- Three (83) registered voters present and Six (6) audience members. Moderator Clancy requested a moment of silence in memory of the following Rowe residents that deceased since the last annual town meeting; George Gaudry, Francis Benson, Wendell Stetson and Tom Williams. Moderator Clancy then turned to the Board of Selectmen for comment before reading the annual town meeting warrant. The Board of Selectmen had no comments.

Mr. Rick Williams Chair of the Board of Assessors spoke regarding the impact on taxes if all articles are passed as presented. The residential tax rate will increase \$.16 to approximately \$6.06. The commercial and personal property tax will increase \$.36 to approximately \$13.37.

The following elected positions will be on the ballot for the Annual Town Election on May 16, 2015. Polling time is 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Rowe Town Hall.

- 1 Selectman for three (3) years
- 1 Assessor for three (3) years
- 1 Board of Health Member for three (3) years
- 1 Cemetery Commissioner for three (3) years
- 1 Finance Committee Members for three (3) years
- 1 Finance Committee Member for three (3) years
- 1 Library Trustee for three (3) years
- 1 Park Commissioner for three (3) years
- 1 Planning Board Member for five (5) years
- 1 School Committee Member for three (3) years

**Question 1:** Shall the Town of Rowe be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to fund the Town's share of the costs of construction, installation and start-up of a regional broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant acting as a member of a cooperative of such Plants formed under Chapter 164, Section 47C of the General Laws?

**ARTICLE 1:** A motion was made and seconded to act on reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

Mrs. Cindy Laffond of Hazelton Road spoke regarding seeing no recognition of James Taylor former Highway Superintendant and his retirement in 2014. She also noted that there was no police report in the Town Report.

*Article 1 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 2:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Select Board to choose all necessary officers not elected by ballot for the ensuing year.

***Article 2 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote***

**ARTICLE 3:** A motion was made and seconded to appropriate \$ 860,000.00 by borrowing for the Town's share of the costs of the construction, installation and start-up of a regional broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant acting as a member of a cooperative of such Plants formed under Chapter 164, Section 47C of the General Laws; and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for that purpose.

***Article 3 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote  
2/3 Vote Declared By The Moderator***

**ARTICLE 4:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE** and **APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the conduct of **General Government**, including the charges and expenses of the various town offices, and compensation for elected and appointed officials for the 2016 fiscal year.

**Administration**

Legal Expenses	10,000.00
General Administration	24,000.00
Town Officer Expenses	2,000.00
Print Town Reports	3,000.00
Board of Selectman's Administrative Clerk	39,452.00
Administrative Assistant Compensation	6,710.00
IT Hardware/Software	10,350.00
Tax Collector's Operations	7,290.00
Town Clerk Operations	2,000.00
Election/Teller Expenses	4,000.00
Registrars & Census Takers Compensation	350.00
Assistant Treasurer Compensation	6,813.00
Town Accountant and Expenses	15,900.00
Municipal Audit	2,000.00
Bonding and Insurance	47,250.00
Town-wide Notification System	1,000.00
Municipal Center Operations/Maintenance	15,420.00
Town Hall Custodian Wages	12,810.00
Town Hall Fuel Oil	6,500.00
Town Hall Electricity	8,500.00
Town Hall Elevator Maintenance Contract	1,800.00
Energy Committee Operations	500.00
Council on Aging	4,600.00
Conservation Commission Operations	1,500.00
Subtotal Administration	233,745.00

**Assessors' Office**

Assessors' Clerk Compensation	9,657.00
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Assessors' Operations	8,000.00
Assessor's Triennial Evaluation	15,000.00
Subtotal Assessors' Office	32,657.00

#### **Planning Board**

Planning Board Operations	1,250.00
Planning Board Consulting Expenses	5,000.00
Planning Board <i>Goal Post</i> Operations	12,100.00
Subtotal Planning Board	18,350.00

#### **Stipends**

Selectmen Stipends	5,840.00
Assessors Stipends	5,275.00
Moderator Stipend	432.00
Tax Collector Stipend	7,516.00
Town Clerk Stipend	12,781.00
Treasurer	13,203.00
Subtotal Stipends	45,047.00

#### **Veterans' Services**

Veterans' District Services Assessment	500.00
Operations	2,807.00
Veterans' Benefits	100.00
Subtotal Veterans' Services	3,407.00

#### **Contracted Services**

FRCOG Cooperative Purchasing Program	1,460.00
Accounting Software (1 <sup>st</sup> year including set-up)	3,462.00
Payroll Services	4,250.00
FCCIP Inspection Program (Building, Wiring, Plumbing, Gas)	3,500.00
IT Consultant	6,500.00
Subtotal Contracted Services	19,172.00

#### **Regional Assessments**

FRCOG Regional Services Assessment	15,113.00
FRCOG Statutory Assessment	1,021.00
Subtotal Regional Assessments	16,134.00

#### **TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT FROM TAXATION**

**\$368,512.00**

*Article 4 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 5:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of \$20,000.00 to be used as a Reserve Fund pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6, for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures for the 2016 fiscal year.

*Article 5 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 6:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the operation and maintenance of **Public Works and Facilities** for the 2016 fiscal year.

**Highway Department**

DPW Superintendent's Salary	71,190.00
DPW Heavy Equipment Operator's Wages	186,489.00
DPW Operations & Maintenance	29,930.00
DPW Heating Oil	6,500.00
DPW Electricity	1,500.00
Fuel for Town Vehicles	43,000.00
Road Surface Maintenance/Reclamation	80,000.00
Annual DPW Projects	43,050.00
<u>Snow &amp; Ice Removal (Winter Roads)</u>	<u>68,612.00</u>
Subtotal Highway Department	530,271.00

**Other Public Works & Facilities**

Summer Youth Employment Program	25,934.00
Street Lighting	5,500.00
<u>Municipal Light Plant</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Subtotal Other Public Works & Facilities	32,434.00

**Cemeteries** – Cemeteries – Maintenance/Repair 15,000.00

**TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES FROM TAXATION** **\$577,705.00**

Moderator Clancy thanked the DPW for their hardwork keeping the roads cleared over the long hard winter.

*Article 6 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 7:** A motion was made and seconded to **Appropriate** from available funds the sum of \$ 146,345.00 for the maintenance, repair, improvement and construction of town highways, or any other purpose allowed under Chapter 90, which amounts shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through funds made available by Chapter 90.

*Article 7 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 8:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Safety** for the 2016 fiscal year.

**Police Department**

Police Chief Stipend	23,007.00
Police Officers Compensation	25,574.00
Operations	8,850.00
<u>Police Old Home Day Presence</u>	<u>492.00</u>
Subtotal Police Department	57,923.00

**Fire Department**

Fire Chief Stipend	7,516.00
Fire Officers Stipends	2,000.00
Emergency Management Director	3,807.00
Firefighter Stipends	7,885.00
Fire Dept. Admin Assistant	7,488.00

Fire Department General Operations	24,160.00
Fire Station Heating Oil	4,440.00
Fire Station Electricity	1,560.00
Emergency Management	2,000.00
Forest Fire Control	100.00
Hazardous Material Control	1,000.00
Subtotal Fire Department	61,956.00
<b>Emergency Medical Services</b>	
EMS Coordinator Stipend	2,188.00
EMS Operations and Maintenance	1,500.00
Emergency Personnel Stipends/Expenses	6,194.00
Subtotal Emergency Medical Service	9,882.00
<b>Animal Control and Inspection</b>	
Animal Control Officer Stipend	639.00
Regional Animal Control Officer	500.00
Regional Dog Control/Adoption Center Membership	300.00
Animal Inspector Stipend	532.00
Subtotal Animal Control and Inspection	1,971.00
<b>Constable Stipend</b>	541.00
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY FROM TAXATION</b>	<b>\$132,273.00</b>

*Article 8 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 9:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** to the **STABILIZATION FUND** the sum of **\$3,000.00 for future ambulance services.**

*Article 9 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
One Opposed Vote  
2/3 Vote Declared By Moderator*

**ARTICLE 10:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Health and Sanitation** for the 2016 fiscal year.

Transfer Station Attendant Compensation	15,745.00
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day	500.00
Refuse Garden Operations	30,500.00
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Assessment	4,400.00
Board of Health Stipend	4,865.00
Board of Health Clerk Wages	7,182.00
Board of Health Operations	13,500.00
Filing and Organization	555.00
Town Nurse Wages	44,074.00
Health Services Operations	6,000.00
Physician's Stipend	500.00
Subtotal Public Health and Sanitation	<b>127,821.00</b>

*Article 10 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 11:** A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$ **1000.00** to establish a new Health Services Account entitled **Emergency Dispensing Site Revolving Fund**, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of \$2,000.00** for the 2016 fiscal year to accept receipts. The purpose is to manage the grants which are used for the emergency dispensing site purchases. Any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2017.

*Article 11 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

<b>TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION FROM TAXATION</b>	<b>\$128,821.00</b>
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**ARTICLE 12:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a revolving fund with a limit of **\$5,000.00** for fiscal year 2016 to accept receipts **related to the Town's recycling program and expenditures** for the operation of the Town's solid waste and recycling programs, membership in and services in the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and the purchase of recycled content or environmentally preferable products, to be under the authority of the Board of Health, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2017.

*Article 12 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 13:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of \$6,000.00** for the 2016 fiscal year to accept receipts from the Insurance Billing for the purpose of **providing vaccine services**, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2017.

*Article 13 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 14:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Schools** for the 2016 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

School Committee Stipend	4,497.00
<b>Rowe School Budget</b>	
Rowe School Pre -K-6 Operating Budget	1,034,156.00
Rowe School Secondary	548,920.00

<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM TAXATION</b>	<b>\$1,587,573.00</b>
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*Article 14 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 15:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the School Committee, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of \$10,000.00** for the 2016 fiscal year to accept fees for **School Programs** for the purpose of offsetting department costs, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2017.

*Article 15 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 16:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **Rowe Town Library** for the 2016 fiscal year.

Library Director Compensation	20,655.00
Library Staff Wages	17,069.00
Library Operations and Maintenance	20,966.00
Library Heating Oil	2,300.00
Library Electricity	1,600.00
CWMARS Mininet Annual Membership	3,655.00
Library CWMARS Overdrive Assessment	260.00
<b>TOTAL ROWE TOWN LIBRARY FROM TAXATION</b>	<b>66,505.00</b>

*Article 16 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 17:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **management and operation of Pelham Lake Park** for the 2016 fiscal year.

Park Ranger Compensation	45,393.00
Park Wages	41,025.00
Operation and Maintenance	19,348.00
<b>TOTAL PARK FROM TAXATION</b>	<b>105,766.00</b>

*Article 17 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 18:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums fiscal year 2016 for **Culture and Recreation** items.

Gracy House Operations	4,000.00
Gracy House Materials/Supplies	500.00
Beautification Committee	2,000.00
<b>TOTAL GRACY HOUSE and BEAUTIFICATION FROM TAXATION</b>	<b>6,500.00</b>

*Article 18 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote*

**ARTICLE 19:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums fiscal year 2016 for **Old Home Day**.

Old Home Day	6,000.00
Old Home Day Fireworks	5,000.00
<b>TOTAL OLD HOME DAY FROM TAXATION</b>	<b>11,000.00</b>

A motion was made and seconded to Amend Article 19 to:

Old Home Day	5,500.00
Old Home Day Evening Display	5,000.00
<b>TOTAL OLD HOME DAY FROM TAXATION</b>	<b>10,500.00</b>

***Motion to Amend Article 19 – Passed By Show Of Hands***  
***28- Yes 15 – No***

***Article 19 as Amended – Passed By Show Of Hands***

**ARTICLE 20:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the **Old Home Day Committee**, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of \$5,000.00** for the 2016 fiscal year to accept departmental receipts generated by Old Home Day activities and programs for the purpose of **defraying expenses of Old Home Day**, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2017.

***Article 20 – Passed By Show Of Hands***  
***Unanimous Vote***

**ARTICLE 21:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Pensions and Insurance** for the 2016 fiscal year.

Franklin County Retirement Assessment	123,000.00*
Unemployment Insurance	1,000.00**
Group Health Insurance	406,000.00**
FICA/Medicare Tax – Town Share	40,000.00**
<b>TOTAL PENSION &amp; INSURANCE FROM TAXATION</b>	<b>570,000.00</b>

\* Excludes pension costs for teachers in MA Teachers' Retirement

\*\* Costs are for all applicable town & school employees

***Article 21 – Passed By Show Of Hands***  
***Unanimous Vote***

**ARTICLE 22:** A motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE** from FREE CASH the sum of **\$107,916.00** to be used to reduce the FY2016 Tax Rate.

***Article 22 – Passed By Show Of Hands***  
***Unanimous Vote***



**ARTICLE 23:** A motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE** from the **STABILIZATION FUND**, the following sums for improvements.

FIRE DEPT – Hazardous Material Trailer	4,500.00
FIRE DEPT – Chain Saws	1,600.00
FIRE DEPT – Portable Pump	1,750.00
FIRE DEPT – Step Chair	3,000.00
PARK – Playground Construction	5,000.00
PARK – Gravel for Park and Tennis Courts Roads	2,500.00
PARK – Fitness Center Equipment	5,200.00
SCHOOL – 3 MacBooks	2,400.00
SCHOOL – 3 ChromeBooks	900.00
SCHOOL – 4 iPads	1,400.00
TOWN HALL – Exercise Room Ceiling Tiles	3,500.00
TOWN HALL – Wash Town Hall Exterior and Windows	2,600.00
TOWN HALL – Cement Sidewalk Repair	9,000.00
<b>TOTAL STABILIZATION</b>	<b>43,350.00</b>

***Article 23- Passed By Show Of Hands  
Two Opposed Votes  
2/3 Vote Declared By Moderator***

**ARTICLE 24:** A motion was made and seconded **APPROPRIATE** from the **CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND**, the following sums for capital repairs and improvements.

SCHOOL – Tractor With Attachments	24,000.00
DPW – Road Surface Reclamation/Maintenance	20,000.00
ENERGY COMMITTEE – Energy Committee Projects	28,000.00
TOWN HALL – Generators for Town Hall Complex	50,000.00
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND</b>	<b>122,000.00</b>

***Article 24 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Two Opposed Votes  
2/3 Vote Declared By Moderator***

**ARTICLE 25:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Select Board to enter into a five-year contract with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Waste Management Recycle America, LLC for recycling services at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility.

**ARTICLE 26:** A motion was made and seconded to postpone indefinitely Article 26.

“ To see if the Town will vote to join the Mohawk Trail Regional School District pursuant to the proposed amended Mohawk Trail Regional District Agreement, which provides for the expansion of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District to include the town of Rowe as a 7-12 member town, as posted and/or available in Rowe Town Hall and Town Website, to be effective July 1, 2016.”

***Article 26 – Passed By Show Of Hands  
Unanimous Vote***

**ARTICLE 27:** To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting

Board of Selectmen Chair Marilyn Wilson thanked Lisa Danek Burke for serving on the School Committee for twelve years - the voters gave Ms. Danek Burke a standing ovation.

Rev. Doug Wilson thanked Jim Taylor – Former DPW Superintendant for his work and sent well wishes – the voters gave Mr. Jim Taylor a standing ovation

**Mr. Paul McLatchy III proposed the following non binding resolution:**

*Whereas the Charlemont Ambulance Service may not have sufficient volunteers to properly serve and maintain its certification,  
Whereas the Town of Rowe is a rural community and located a fair distance from any hospital,  
Whereas time is of the essence when dealing with life-threatening emergencies,*

*Be it Resolved that the voters of the Town of Rowe do hereby support efforts made by local and state officials to ensure the continued existence of the Charlemont Ambulance Service, and support the passage of Massachusetts Senate Bill 1141, which will improve the ability of the Ambulance Service to respond to call.*

***The Non Binding Resolution was voted on and Passed By A Show Of Hands – Unanimous Vote***

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. – Unanimous Vote

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer A. Morse  
Rowe Town Clerk  
May 15, 2015